

Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

- 1-2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains 17β -estradiol.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.
- 5-17. (canceled)
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol per daily dose.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of estradiol ester per daily dose.
- 9-17. (canceled)
18. (Currently Amended) A hormonal replacement therapy method for treating an estrogen deficient, menopausal woman comprising orally administering daily without interruption to such menopausal woman a composition containing from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol or 1.5 to 2 mg of an estradiol ester, and from 0.625 to 1.25 mg of norgestrol acetate per daily dose so as to

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Page 3 of 14 of Amendment

effect hormonal replacement therapy while preventing growth of
uterine mucosa and induce inducing and maintaining endometrium
endometrial atrophy without bleeding.

19-37. (canceled)